

**MINUTES OF BOARD MEETING**

Thursday, March 8, 2018, 10:00 a.m. to 11:02 a.m.  
California Regional Water Quality Control Board  
City of Blythe  
235 N. Broadway  
Blythe, CA 92225

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1. **Call to Order**

The California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Colorado River Basin Region (Regional Water Board or Board) was called to order by Board Chair Nancy Wright at 10:00 a.m. on March 8, 2018, in Blythe, California.

**Pledge of Allegiance**

**Roll Call (Board Members only)**

Nancy Wright, Buford Crites, Tom Davis, and Jayne Powell were present. Hidali Garcia and Ed Muzik were absent. The Board Clerk stated that a quorum was present.

**Regional Board Staff Present:**

Jose Angel, Katharine Buddingh, Doug Wylie, Mary Castañeda, Scot Stormo, Terry Barnes, and Dan Mefford.

**Others Present:**

Steve Bigley, Coachella Valley Water District  
Chuck Sizamore, Coachella Valley Water District  
Steve Jones, CSASI  
Shirley Nash, Palo Verde Irrigation District  
J.R. Echard, Palo Verde Irrigation District  
Mike Matzke, NBPC  
Shuishi Okamoto, Earthrise Nutritionals LLC  
Tomatsu Maguchi, Earthrise Nutritionals LLC

2. **Public Forum**

There were no public comments.

3. **Approval of Minutes**

Minutes of November 9, 2017 Board Meeting  
Minutes of October 9, 2017 Workshop

**Motion:** Buford Crites moved, Tom Davis seconded, and the motion was carried unanimously to adopt minutes.

**Uncontested Items**

4. **Order R7-2018-0001** – Waste Discharge Requirements for Coachella Valley Water District, Owner/Operator Reclamation Plant 10, Palm Desert, Riverside County (Doug Wylie)

Scot Stormo, EG, gave a presentation regarding the Waste Discharge Requirements for the Coachella Valley Water District Water Reclamation Plant #10 (WRP-10) located in Palm Desert, California. The presentation summarized the history of the facility and provided information on recent monitoring data warranting the submission for Board approval of a technical report by Coachella Valley Water District (CVWD) regarding nitrate and salt concentrations in the vicinity of the facility. Mr. Stormo indicated that the proposed WDRs had been updated to reflect CVWD's current water recycling activities and to change some of the prior monitoring parameters to address changes in influent concentrations resulting from increased water conservation.

Ms. Powell asked whether groundwater monitoring Wells 1, 2, and 3 were abandoned. Steve Bigley of CVWD stated those wells still exist and are currently used to monitor water levels. Ms. Powell also inquired whether CVWD is already conducting annual monitoring for those wells. Mr. Stormo stated that CVWD is not currently reporting data from any such monitoring and that the Regional Water Board is essentially asking CVWD to provide this data. Mr. Bigley added that CVWD currently monitors those wells once every three years. Mr. Bigley also thanked staff for working cooperatively with CVWD staff on the proposed WDRs.

Mr. Davis disclosed that his employer, the Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians, is currently in litigation with CVWD, but that the litigation does not pertain to this matter and he could be fair and impartial in voting. An opportunity was given for members of the public to object to the participation of Mr. Davis in the proceedings; no objections were made.

**Motion:** Jayne Powell moved, Buford Crites seconded, and the motion was carried unanimously to adopt Board Order R7-2018-0001.

5. Order R7-2018-0003 – Waste Discharge Requirements for Blythe Airport Wastewater Treatment Plant, Blythe, Riverside County (Carlos Angulo)

Doug Wylie, Senior WRCE, stated that there were no comment letters received for this item. However, he mentioned that there were a few typographical errors on the proposed WDRs and that staff prepared an Errata to correct those deficiencies.

Ms. Powell inquired about the meaning of the term “treatment and disposal area” in the WDRs as it related to objectionable odors emanating from the facility. To address this concern, a proposal was made to clarify the meaning by referencing the Site Map in Attachment B and amending Attachment B to outline the boundaries of the wastewater treatment and disposal area, which consisted of the four, unlined evaporation/percolation ponds. These changes were incorporated into the Errata.

In response to a comment by Ms. Powell, staff also clarified the required “non-compliance” notification to the Executive Officer and Office of Emergency Services. Mr. Davis proposed alternate language be used to change the phrase “within 24 hours” to “no later than 24 hours” in the WDRs. Staff agreed to the change, and it was introduced as part of the Errata.

**Motion:** Tom Davis moved, Jayne Powell seconded, and the motion was carried unanimously to adopt Board Order R7-2018-0003 with Errata.

6. Order R7-2018-0005 – Change of Name and/or Ownership of Facilities having Waste Discharge Requirements for Salamander Mobile Park Domestic Wastewater Treatment, Bard, Riverside County (Carlos Angulo)

**Motion:** Buford Crites moved, Tom Davis seconded, and the motion was carried unanimously to adopt Board Order R7-2018-0005.

7. Order R7-2018-0006 – Rescission of Waste Discharge Requirements for Black Rock Geothermal Power Project Wellfield Mud Sumps/Containment Basins (Doug Wylie)

**Motion:** Buford Crites moved, Tom Davis seconded, and the motion was carried unanimously to adopt Board Order R7-2018-0006.

### **Informational Items**

8. Informational Update: New River Improvement Project  
*[Jose L. Angel, P.E.]*

Mr. Angel reported that the Regional Water Board now has a \$1.4 million contract in place for the New River Improvement Project, Phase I in Calexico, California. The contractor for the project is Michael Baker International, which has experience in dealing with border issues, including as part of the consulting team for the Calexico New River Parkway. Mr. Angel added that he is scheduling a meeting with the U.S. Department of Homeland Security for consultation and coordination regarding Phase I, as well as a meeting with Imperial Irrigation District, the City of Calexico, and Imperial County to discuss the parties' roles and expectations for Phase I. He also noted that the plans, specifications, and the draft environmental documents for the project are expected to be completed by October 2018.

9. Informational Update: One World Beef Packers, Brawley Slaughterhouse  
*[Jose L. Angel, P.E.]*

Mr. Angel reported that the Brawley slaughterhouse continues to be in compliance with the permit requirements for the facility. He added that the Regional Water Board did receive one complaint concerning the slaughterhouse, to which staff responded within 20 minutes. Staff determined that the facility was not emitting objectionable odors, but there were odors outside the facility likely associated with some of the feedlots in the area. Mr. Angel also mentioned that the permittee plans to use its existing industrial wastewater treatment facility as a short-term disposal alternative to supplement its ongoing discharge to the City of Brawley WWTP, instead of building the proposed BioFiltro to irrigate 140 acres planted with Bermuda grass. He also stated that this proposal provides the One World Beef Packers with flexibility to manage its finances and will likely move forward because the existing wastewater treatment plant is performing significantly better than anticipated.

10. State Water Resources Control Board Activities Update  
*[Katharine Buddingh]*

Ms. Buddingh reported that the Governor is fast tracking Regional Water Board member appointments. It was also reported that the Office of the Chief Counsel will be sending a memorandum to all Board members regarding the types of events that Board members may attend and for which they can expect to be compensated. Ms. Buddingh also reported that Lori Okun, Assistant Chief Counsel for the Regional Board Branch of the Office of Chief Counsel, is retiring next month. Mr. Angel expressed his thanks and appreciation for Ms. Okun's assistance to the Colorado River Basin Water Board over the years. The Board members echoed his comments.

11. Colorado River Basin Water Board Executive Officer's Report  
*[Jose L. Angel, P.E.]*

Mr. Angel reported he changed the Executive Officer's Report to a "Staff Report," because staff are the main contributors to the report, and it will be a bi-monthly report. He added that Abdi Haile (Division Chief) and Doug Wylie (Senior WCRE) have been given the responsibility of

putting together the Staff Report, with the added expectation that the Board's Executive team will also contribute to the report. Mr. Angel also stated that he sent a letter to the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) detailing the Regional Water Board's water quality concerns with DHS's fence-replacement project in the Calexico area, and that a copy of the letter was also provided to the Board members. He reported that DHS prepared and is implementing a very comprehensive storm water pollution prevention plan to address the Board's concerns. He concluded his report by informing the Board that staff is preparing a staff report for the upcoming Salton Sea Workshop to be held on April 12, 2018.

12. Colorado River Basin Water Board Member Comments  
There were no comments from the Board members.

13. Colorado River Basin Water Board Chair's Report
  - a. Election of Chair and Vice-Chair

Mr. Davis nominated Ms. Wright for Regional Water Board Chair and Mr. Crites for Vice-Chair for Calendar Year 2018. Ms. Powell seconded. All voted in favor of re-election of Ms. Wright and Mr. Crites as Board Chair and Vice-Chair for the Calendar Year 2018.

Board Chair Wright reported that Mr. Crites will be attending the meeting of the Mojave Water Agency Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) on April 5, 2018, and the meeting includes a mini tour. Mr. Crites will also represent the Regional Water Board at the June 7, 2018 TAC meeting. Ms. Powell said that she will also attend the April 5<sup>th</sup> meeting, and Mr. Davis also expressed interest in joining the meeting.

Chair Wright and the Board discussed the dates for upcoming Board meetings and revised certain dates due to scheduling conflicts. The Regional Water Board meetings for the rest of the year were set as follows:

- The May 2018 meeting was changed from May 31, 2018 to May 14, 2018 in Calexico;
- The June 2018 meeting was confirmed for June 14, 2018 in Yucca Valley at 9:30 a.m.;
- The September 2018 meeting was changed from September 13, 2018 to September 20, 2018 in Palm Desert starting at 2:00 p.m.; and
- The November 2018 meeting was confirmed for November 8, 2018 in Palm Desert at 9:00 a.m.

Board Chair Wright also confirmed that there will be additional Board workshops scheduled at 9:00 a.m. in Palm Desert on July 12, 2018, October 11, 2018, and December 13, 2018.

14. **Closed Session**

There was no closed session held.

Meeting adjourned at 11:02 a.m.